



City Administrator's Report

October 2008

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

October 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th. City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2 p.m.

Community Events

Downtown Farmer's Market

Tuesdays, 4 to 7:30 p.m., 500 and 600 blocks of State Street. Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., corner of Santa Barbara and Cota Streets.

Creek Week

October 2nd to 12th. Enjoy, restore, and protect local creeks and watersheds. For more information visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Harbor and Seafood Festival

Saturday, October 11th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival lures seafood lovers of all ages to the Harbor for one of the community's most beloved and flavorful events. Enjoy live music, cooking demonstrations and fresh seafood.

Red Ribbon Week

October 18th to 26th. The Santa Barbara Youth Council and the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Teen Coalition (ADAP), Teen Programs, Twelve35 Teen Center, Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Palabra Girl's Empowerment and Santa Barbara City College Alcohol and Drug Counseling Program will be hosting daily activities at various schools. For more information contact Chris McDermut at 897-

2650 or Kenyon Williams at 882-1235.

Lights on Afterschool

Thursday, October 16th. This is part of a nationwide effort in support of after school activities. Afternoon activities will be held at Franklin Elementary School at 2 p.m. and Family Literacy Night will be held at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, October 22nd. A talent show will be held at Washington Elementary School at 5 p.m.

Halloween

October 31st.

Flags on State Street

Community Arts Music Association (C.A.M.A) September 29th to October 10th

Fighting Back October 10th to 20th

Domestic Violence Solutions October 20th to November 3rd

City Administrator's Office

Watch Inside Santa Barbara. *Inside Santa Barbara* is City TV Channel 18's award-winning news magazine show. In this episode viewers learn about pre-winter storm hydromulching in the GAP Fire burn area, Measure G public information, the City's Americans with Disabilities Act transition plan, improvements to East Cabrillo Boulevard, the Annual Carrillo Recreation Center Open House, and the 20th Anniversary of the "Wonder Morton" organ at the Arlington Theatre. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs every Monday at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., and Sundays at 10 p.m. You can also watch *Inside Santa Barbara* on-line by visiting the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Administrative Services Department

Looking for an Hourly Position? Consider applying for these City jobs: Facility Monitor for Parks and Recreation; Junior High After School Program Coordinator; Rental Housing Mediation Aide II; Research Attorney; School Crossing Guards; Teen Program Monitor; and Waterfront Parking Attendant. For more information and to apply on-line visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

SB Maps: Public Access to City GIS Information. In August, the City launched *SB Maps*. *SB Maps* is a web-based mapping application that delivers custom maps and reports using GIS data supplied by City Departments and other organizations. Previously, the public had to go in to the Public Works Department to view this information. Now, it can be viewed on-line using *SB Maps*. Anyone can browse the GIS data layers like parcels, aerial photos, streets, and more. Construction professionals can use the interactive webpage to view information about current major construction projects in an easy-to-use visual map of the City. Also, residents, real estate agents, and developers now have quick and easy access from the convenience of their home or business. Visit *SB Maps* at the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Annual Recruitment for Boards and Commissions. The City is currently conducting the annual recruitment for volunteers to fill positions on the following Boards and Commissions:

Access Advisory Committee	Library Board
Airport Commission	Living Wage Advisory Committee
Architectural Board of Review	Lower Westside Center Advisory Committee
Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals	Measure P Committee
Civil Service Commission	Metropolitan Transit District Board
Community Development and Human Services Committee	Mosquito and Vector Management District Board
Community Events and Festivals Committee	Park and Recreation Commission
Creeks Advisory Committee	Planning Commission
Downtown Parking Committee	Rental Housing Mediation Task Force
Fire and Police Commission	Sister Cities Board
Fire and Police Pension Commission	Transportation and Circulation Committee
Franklin Center Advisory Committee	Water Commission
Harbor Commission	Westside Center Advisory Committee
Historic Landmarks Commission	

The deadline to submit applications is Monday, November 3, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. The City Council will conduct interviews on Tuesday, November 11th at 4 p.m., Tuesday, November 18th at 3:30 p.m., and Tuesday, November 25th at 6 p.m. Applicants for the Community Center Advisory Committees and low-income neighborhood categories of the Community Development and Human Services Committee will have an additional interview opportunity on Thursday, November 13th at 7 p.m. at the Westside Community Center at 423 West Victoria Street. Applications are available on-line by visiting the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office at 564-5309.

Airport Department

GAP Fire Watershed Preparation. Due to the threat of erosion in the GAP Fire burn area during the upcoming rainy season, an aerial hydromulching operation is taking place for 40 to 60 days. Hydromulch consists of an organic mix of recycled papers and wood fibers with water and a plant-based binder that is being spread over the burn area by fixed wing aircraft and a heavy lift helicopter. The operation includes six AT-802 Air Tractor aircraft flying from the Santa

Barbara Airport and an Erickson Sky Crane helicopter flying from a temporary landing area off Paradise Road and Highway 154. There may be as many as 250 take-offs and landings per day, flying 8 to 10 hours per day, seven days a week during suitable weather.

Passenger Count Up. More than 78,000 passengers arrived and departed at the Airport in August; this was a 3.4% increase over the same month last year. The highest capacity flights were aboard USAirways to Las Vegas (93.2%), United Airlines to Denver (92.9%) and American Eagle to Dallas/Ft. Worth (91.2%). Overall the passenger count is up 4.4% for the first eight months over 2007.

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Update. In October, the Planning Commission will meet on October 8th, 9th, and 16th.

On Wednesday, October 8th, the Planning Commission and City Council will hold a special, semi-annual joint worksession on the Planning Division's workload and priorities.

On October 9th, the Planning Commission will hold a concept review public hearing of a proposed 10-lot subdivision at 230 Lighthouse Road.

On October 16th, the Commission will consider a three-lot subdivision and Coastal Development Permit at 124 Los Aguajes, a General Plan Amendment to change the land use designation of a portion of the 600, 700, and 800 blocks of Milpas Street (west side) from Residential to Commercial, and a Tentative Subdivision Map at 15 South Hope.

On October 16th at 6 p.m., the Planning Commission and the Transportation and Circulation Committee will hold a joint worksession in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room (630 Garden Street), to discuss the Las Positas Road / Mission Street Circulation Area Options Report and the Public Works Streets Capital Improvement Program budget.

Plan Santa Barbara. On September 10th and 11th, the Planning Commission held a two-day meeting to receive public input and develop its recommendations to the City Council on the *Plan Santa Barbara* preferred policy project description and alternatives. The Commission hearings covered more than 130 policies, and substantial direction was provided to staff. A follow-up meeting held on September 25th was necessary to conclude the Commission's discussion. The Commission requested that staff prepare an amended recommendations report for one additional review before it is submitted to City Council. The Planning Commission will review the revised report on November 13th at 1 p.m.

Finance Department

August Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) up 10.5%. In August the TOT was up 10.5% over the prior August. While this is good news, it should be noted that there were 11 "weekend" days this year (including the Labor Day weekend) compared to nine last August. After two

months of the new fiscal year TOT is up 5.9% over the same two-month period from last fiscal year. Staff estimates that TOT needs 3.1% growth this year to meet the budget revenue target.

Sales Tax Revenue Declines 7.4%. The City's sales tax revenue for the quarter ended June 30th was down 7.4% from the prior June 30th quarter. Staff does not have the detailed information to determine what caused the decline. Sales tax revenue will need to grow about 3.1% for the rest of the fiscal year in order to make the 1% overall growth that was budgeted for this fiscal year. The City has now experienced declines in three of the last four quarters and sales tax revenue is down 2.5% overall over that period.

Fire Department

Get Ready Santa Barbara Campaign Kickoff. On September 9th, the City Council proclaimed September as “Disaster Preparedness Month.” Along with this proclamation, the City’s Office of Emergency Services launched its *Get Ready Santa Barbara* campaign, which encourages all residents and City employees to prepare, plan and stay informed in the event of a disaster. As part of the *Get Ready Santa Barbara* campaign, City TV Channel 18 is airing a four-week television series that began on September 21st, which highlights various skills to consider in preparing for a disaster. Two fire station Open Houses were also held in September, where hands-on training was provided to the public; such as how to use a fire extinguisher, when and how to shut-off utilities and how to create a disaster kit. You can find more information on the City’s website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Tsunami Drill. The City held a Tsunami Disaster Drill on October 1st for City employees. The goal of this exercise was to test communications within the Emergency Operations Center (EOC); communication between the EOC and City Departments; the delivery of public information; and the creation of objectives for the next phase of the incident. For more information on the exercise, contact City Emergency Services Manager Yolanda McGlinchey at 564-5711.

Library Department

Goleta Library Welcomes New Supervising Librarian. Allison Gray has been hired as Supervising Librarian for the Goleta Branch Library. Allison comes from the Palmdale City Library where she was Public Services Manager. She was the Director of the John Jermain Library in Sag Harbor, New York, from 2003 to 2007, and the Head of Youth Services at the South Country Library in Bellport, New York. She has authored a number of successful grants, including grants to help fund a building project.

Bookmobile Changes. The schedule and route for the Library’s Bookmobile has been changed to better serve youth, especially at-risk youth. It is also making appearances at local fairs and functions, such as the Santa Barbara Book and Author Festival, the Swap Meet at the old drive-in theater in Goleta, a UCSB baseball game, and at a Goleta Women’s Club meeting. These changes are being made to increase awareness of library services and library cards to new patrons.

Literacy Grant. The Library's Literacy Program has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Allergan Foundation to fund programs for family literacy. It will be used to continue offering the Early Literacy for Families programs in the Library branches.

Central Library Bathroom Project Nearly Completed. The newly remodeled public restrooms at the Central Library incorporate "green" building practices and are in full compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Theater Book Club. The Ensemble Theatre is joining the Central Library for the second year of Theatre Book Club, a group that meets to exchange ideas on the plays produced by the Ensemble Theatre Group. The first play of the year, *Take Me Out*, by Richard Greenberg, will be the subject for the October 7th meeting. Members are given a copy of the script to read in advance of each meeting which is led by Ensemble Executive Artistic Director Jonathan Fox.

Parks and Recreation

New Faces at Parks and Recreation. The Department welcomes two new managers to its team. Scott McGregor, the new Business Manager, has a Ph.D. in Accounting and Business Administration, and worked most recently with the County of Santa Barbara Public Defenders Office as Business Manager. New Golf Manager Mark Reed comes to the Santa Barbara Golf Club from the Valley Club in Montecito where he served as Golf Superintendent. Mark also worked at Green Hills Country Club in Millbrae, CA and Cypress Point in Pebble Beach.

Franklin Neighborhood Center Gets Landscaping Facelift. On September 13th, the Franklin Neighborhood Center Advisory Committee, neighborhood residents, and City staff held a Community Planting Day to re-landscape the front entrance area of the Franklin Neighborhood Center. The landscaping project was made possible through a \$2,300 contribution from Santa Barbara Beautiful for plant materials and from several days of soil preparation by City Park staff. The landscaping project was done to complement the recent facility renovations completed by the City and County of Santa Barbara. Special thanks to over twenty neighborhood residents for their participation!

Lights On Afterschool. One million children, parents, and community leaders from across the country will rally in support of after school programs on October 16th. The Parks and Recreation Department, in collaboration with the Santa Barbara School District, the Santa Barbara Public Library, and the Diabetes Research Center, will provide afternoon activities for the students of the Recreation and Afterschool Programs (RAP) and Afterschool Activities for Kids (A-OK) programs at Franklin Elementary School. Activities will begin at 2 p.m. and then be followed by a Family Literacy Night at 5 p.m., featuring fun filled games, entertainment and educational resources for the entire family. On October 22nd, the City will host a second event, beginning at 5 p.m. at Washington Elementary School called "Lights, Camera, Action!" This Art and Talent Show will be hosted by RAP participants who will showcase the many different "talents" they are discovering after school.

Red Ribbon Week. The Santa Barbara Youth Council and the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Teen Coalition (ADAP) are teaming with Teen Programs, Twelve35 Teen Center, Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Palabra Girl's Empowerment and Santa Barbara City College Alcohol and Drug Counseling Program, to present a week-long series of events recognizing Red Ribbon

Week, October 18th to 26th. The week-long celebration aimed at educating kids about drug and alcohol abuse, will include daily activities at public schools and at the Twelve35 Teen Center, including guest speakers, photo and art contests and closing with "Twelve Scary Five," a dance and October Fest event. For more information, contact Chris McDermut at 897-2650 or Kenyon Williams at 882-1235.

Tree and Landscape Plan Preservation Public Meetings. On September 22nd, the City held a public workshop to discuss improvements to the City's Tree and Landscape Preservation Enforcement Process. The workshop was the first in a series of public meetings to seek input on recommendations intended to eliminate unauthorized tree removals, discourage excessive and damaging pruning, and more easily enforce the maintenance of approved landscape plans. Public input was also taken about the issue at the Single Family Design Board, Historic Landmarks Commission, Street Tree Advisory Committee, Architectural Board of Review and the Park and Recreation Commission.

All-American Rose Selections Certificate of Achievement. The Parks and Recreation Department has just received an All-American Rose Selections Certificate of Achievement for *Outstanding Rose Garden Maintenance* for the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden at the Mission. This award was given by the All-America Rose Selections, which is a nonprofit association dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. Stop by the Rose Garden across from the Mission and admire their beautiful fall color.

Police Department

Citizen's Academy. The Police Department is pleased to announce the graduation of the summer Citizen's Academy on October 8th. Participants in the Citizen's Academy learned about how the Police Department functions. Presentations and demonstrations were made by members of the Patrol Division, Investigative Division, Community Services Division, and Chief's Staff. Academy participants learned about 9-1-1 Dispatch, Patrol, CSI, K-9, Bomb Squad, SWAT, Detectives, and the Police Activities League. The next Citizen's Academy is scheduled to begin October 22nd. This academy will be our Spanish language academy and is geared towards those members of our community that are primarily Spanish speaking. Anyone interested in attending should contact Sergeant Lorenzo Duarte at 897-2332 or Officer Adrian Gutierrez at 897-3702.

Early Morning Sweeps. Within the last two weeks patrol teams have conducted early morning sweeps in the areas of 300 East Cabrillo Boulevard, Cabrillo Ball Fields, Dwight Murphy, and the first block of East Haley Street. These sweeps were in response to complaints from citizens and increased activity of people camping, drinking, and loitering in these areas. The sweeps resulted in a combined total of 69 citations and three arrests.

Public Works Department

Improvements Completed at City's First Park. In 1870, Plaza Vera Cruz Park, located at 130 East Cota Street, became the first public playground for Santa Barbara schoolchildren. On August 21st, the City completed the Plaza Vera Cruz Park Improvements Project. This one-and-a-half acre downtown plaza features a playground, an open lawn area with large Eucalyptus,

Palms, and rare Montezuma Cypress trees. The project consisted of upgrading the condition of all the park walkways, sitting areas, park furnishings, irrigation system, pedestrian lighting and adding new landscape beds and trees. The project was funded by the Redevelopment Agency, Integrated Pest Management Fund, and Santa Barbara Beautiful.

Highway 101 at Mission Street. The Mission Street Bike Lane Project is currently under construction. The project addresses key safety and mobility issues by enhancing bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Mission Street underpass at Highway 101. New bike lanes are under construction on the east and westbound sides between the 400 and 600 blocks of West Mission Street. Pedestrian areas are being enhanced with new sidewalks, street lighting, traffic signal modifications, curb and gutters, and retaining walls. New landscaping will also improve visibility and area aesthetics. Construction will continue through the fall of 2008. To avoid peak driving times, the majority of work will occur between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information about this project, visit the website at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Waterfront Department

Annual Pile Driving Project on Stearns Wharf. The annual inspection of the Stearns Wharf wood support piles was recently completed. As a result of the inspection, this year's work will focus the supports under the roadway, the commercial area under the 217-221 buildings, and at the Harbor Restaurant. To maintain the structural integrity of the wharf in these areas, damaged wood piles will be replaced or reinforced. Construction is expected to begin in January 2009.

City Pier in Santa Barbara Harbor. Significant repairs to the City Pier in the Harbor are scheduled to take place concurrent with the Annual Pile Driving Project on Stearns Wharf. This upgrade will replace 15-year old deck boards and support piles. Underwater inspections are ongoing and preliminary results indicate several wood support piles need to be replaced.